

PUBLIC TOILETS POLICY

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| Policy Number: | 4.1.7 |
| Approved by: | Council |
| Date Approved: | December 2023 |
| Date of Next Review: | December 2024 |
| Applicable to Unit(s): | Whole Organisation |
| Responsible Officer: | Manager Natural Environment and Parks |
| Related Policies: | Heritage Policy |
| Related Documents: | Public Toilet Management Plan |
| Statutory Reference: | Nil |

OVERVIEW

To establish policy to guide the management of public toilets.

Access to toilet facilities is an important consideration in terms of the attractiveness and functionality of public areas generally and urban public areas particularly. Not all such areas are subject to Council jurisdiction, however Council is often perceived by the general public to be the agency universally responsible for the provision, operation and maintenance of public toilet facilities. In this regard, Council at times receives requests to either provide new (additional) public toilet facilities or to upgrade existing facilities to meet contemporary standards.

Council is currently involved, either directly or indirectly in the maintenance and operation a number of public toilets throughout the Shire, which are intended to serve public areas catering for relatively large numbers of people on a regular basis. Council currently directly manages 36 public toilet facilities throughout the Shire.

THE POLICY

Council will ensure that adequate and appropriate public toilet facilities are available to residents and visitors throughout the Shire within its jurisdiction according to the following guiding principles.

- To ensure the provision of public toilet facilities is equitably distributed throughout the Shire and appropriate to need.
- To make appropriate provision for accessibility and functionality for people with disabilities and special needs.
- To ensure that the environment, both natural and built, is not adversely impacted by the construction and operation of public toilet facilities.
- To maintain toilet facilities and associated services and equipment in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and community expectation.
- To regularly monitor the use of public toilet facilities and the condition and maintenance of same, throughout the Shire.
- To encourage provision of toilet facilities on a collaborative basis with committees of management, public agencies and the private sector.

Application

This policy will apply to and establish the mechanisms for, the establishment, management and operation of public toilets, including but not limited to proposed new facilities, upgrades of existing facilities, retirements of existing facilities and establish a standard for such facilities having regard for, but not limited to:

- location;
- siting including proximity to other facilities;
- accessibility and amenity;
- architectural values, including heritage values;
- environmental design considerations;
- capital and operating (life cycle) costs;
- community consultation.

Provision Objectives

Council will ensure that adequate and appropriate public toilet facilities are available to residents and visitors throughout the Shire.

Council has a Public Toilet Management Plan which may be accessed by staff via request. The responsibility to ensure that the maintenance and implementation of the guidelines accords with Council's policy position is vested in the Manager Natural Environment and Parks. Any matter specifically requiring a Council determination shall be reported by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council's Human Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council's policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.

REVISION HISTORY

| VERSION | DATE | MAJOR / MINOR UPDATE | SUMMARY OF CHANGES |
|---------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| 1.0 | December 2022 | Minor | Number of public toilets managed increased |
| 1.1 | December 2023 | Minor | Date of Next Review updated to: December 2024 Minor formatting changes Minor administrative updates |